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# CRIPPLED CHILDREN

ALASKA'S



PHOTO BY SITKA STUDIOS

## What Is Her Future Worth?

## **All children, regardless of race or creed**

if they are under 21 and living in Alaska, are eligible for care under the Crippled Children's Program of the Alaska Department of Health.

## **Who are crippled children?**

Children who have



- Crooked legs
- Crooked backs
- Cleft lips or palates
- Birth deformities
- Serious burns or birthmarks
- Rheumatic fever or  
infantile paralysis

## **What care is available to them?**

Present funds provide for only 1 out of 7 crippled children known to be needing care.

## Crippled children's clinic



Every year the orthopedic surgeon holds clinics around Alaska to examine crippled children. Here he looks at the club feet of a two-year-old girl whose mother has given permission to send her to Mt. Edgecumbe Orthopedic Hospital at Sitka.

This hospital is operated by the Alaska Native Service in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Health.



PHOTO BY SITKA STUDIOS

## By plane to Sitka

A friendly worker from the Alaska Crippled Children's Association greets new arrivals for the hospital.

All hospital expenses are paid by the Department of Health, with funds from the Federal and Territorial governments and the A.C.C.A. Travel expenses are shared with the A.N.S.

## A new home and friends

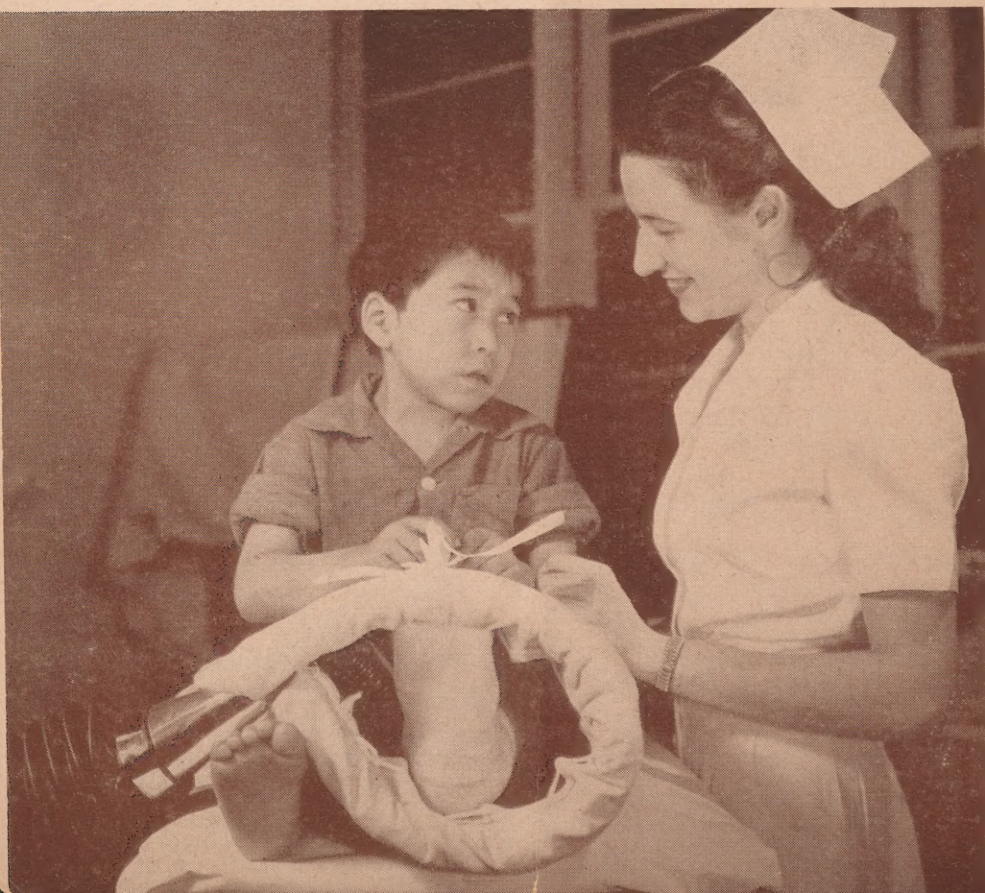
Mt. Edgecumbe is more like a home than a hospital. The new child soon makes friends, who play with him while he has to stay in bed. When he is physically able, he can visit other wards and rooms. Volunteers from the A.C.C.A. bring games and handiwork and read to the children.



## A light-weight cast

Tuberculosis has attacked this boy's ankle. A plaster cast of extra-light material holds the ankle straight while it rests and grows strong again.

A special machine blows warm air around the cast and dries the plaster quickly.





## Exercises under water

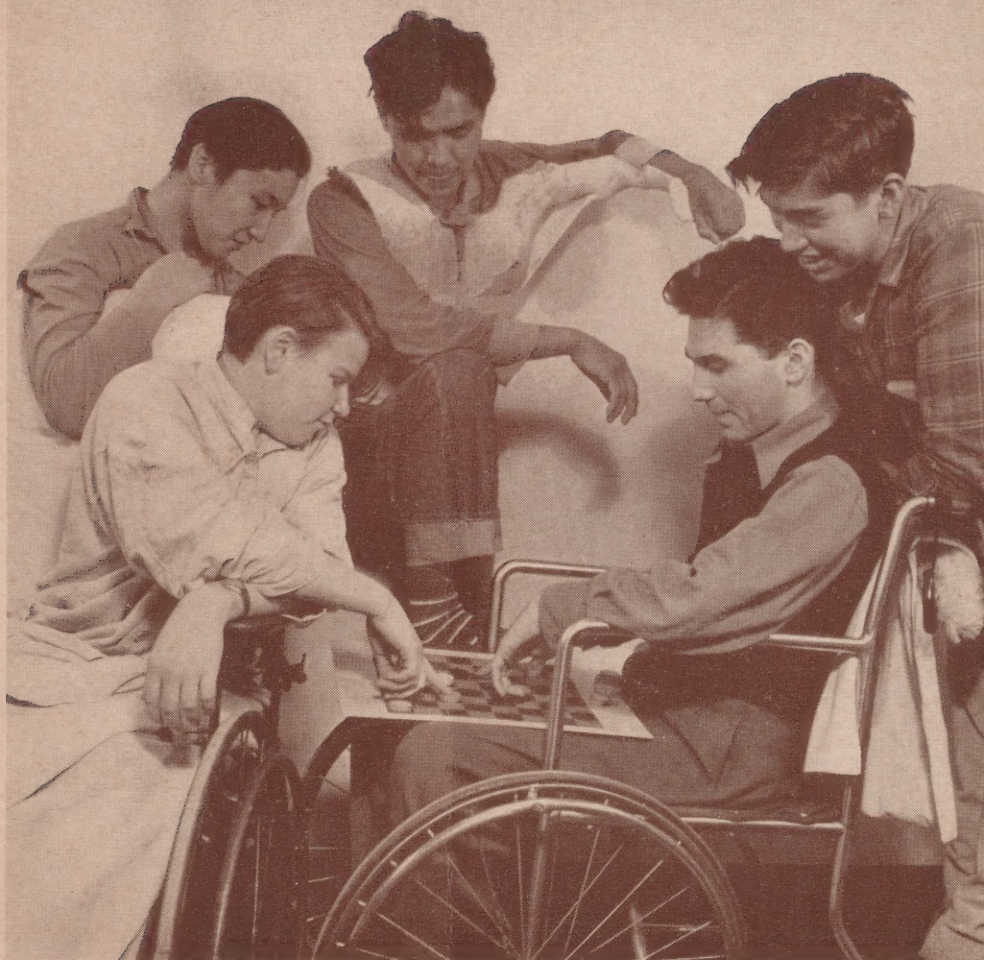
Water supports arms and legs, makes it easier to use injured muscles. (President Roosevelt took this kind of exercise to strengthen his legs.) This worker — a trained physiotherapist — teaches weakened muscles to work again by means of special exercises.

The physiotherapy equipment at Mt. Edgecumbe equals that of any orthopedic hospital in the United States.

## An early case can be cured

This baby with tuberculosis of the spine lies for months on a special frame to straighten her back.





## Having fun is part of the cure

Games, art work, carving, handicrafts and music keep young hands and minds alert and busy.

Patients who can play musical instruments entertain the other children with songs and concerts.



## Good food mends bones and muscles

A well-balanced diet, prepared in a modern kitchen, is a necessary part of the treatment. Proper food is especially important in the care of tuberculosis.

## Food for the mind

Some of the children continue their studies while at the hospital. Books and instruction are furnished by volunteers from the A.C.C.A.

Children who are able go to classes at nearby Mt. Edgecumbe School.





## Time flies when hands are busy

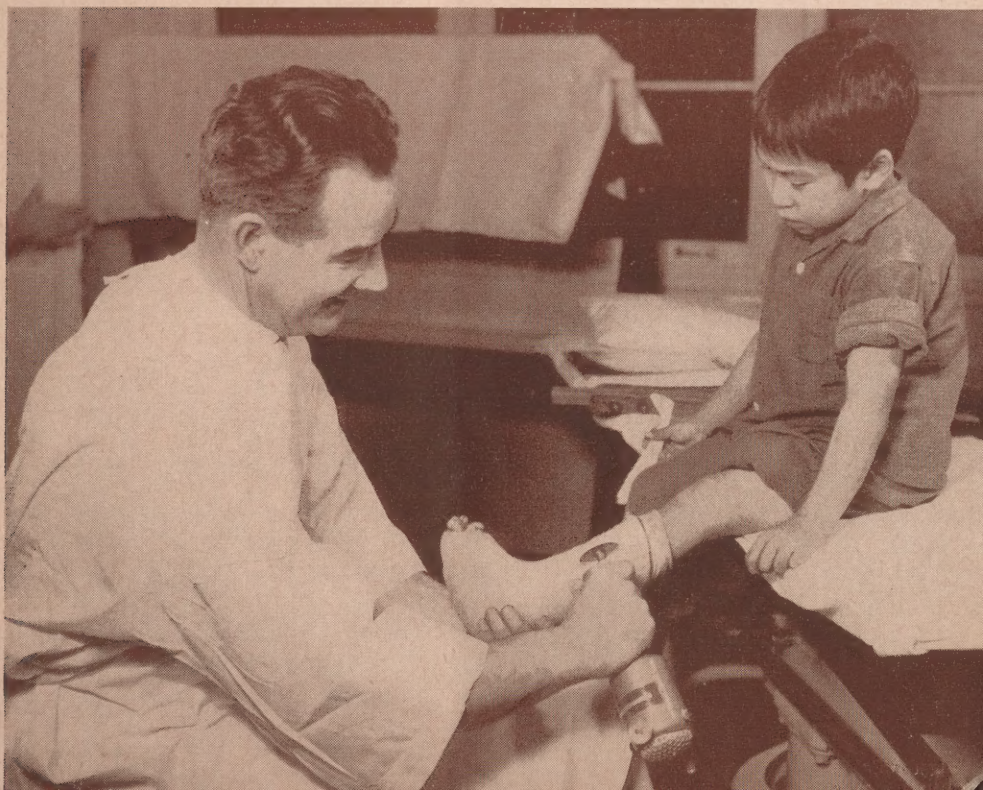
These toys and gifts were made by the girls, with the guidance of a trained handicraft worker paid by the Alaska Tuberculosis Association.

The handiwork is suited to the physical condition and age of each child and teaches them interesting skills. The purpose of all work and play at the hospital is to help the children get well.

## Happy ending

This little boy came in on crutches. After months of care, the last cast is taken off—he will walk away on sturdy legs.

In one year the orthopedic surgeon has: applied 155 casts, performed 138 major operations, given 309 mail consultations with physicians in other parts of Alaska, examined 321 patients.



For every child in the hospital there are  
six who need hospital care—now



Only 116 children, both white and native, received hospital care during 1948, under the Crippled Children's Program of the Alaska Department of Health.

76 in Mt. Edgecumbe Orthopedic Hospital  
24 in Seattle hospitals  
16 in the University of Chicago's hospital

They are getting the best of care—but  
116 hospital beds a year are not enough

Many children whose illness has been found in time are waiting for a place in the hospital. While they wait they are losing their chance for normal life.

100 new cases were registered last year. Every week, physicians notify the Orthopedic Hospital of children needing immediate care.

## Orthopedic care is long and expensive

How long?

For most children **a year** at least in the hospital. Then one or two years of periodic observation and treatment, during which they must be near the hospital.

How expensive?

For one child, for **one year**, about **\$3500**

## Early Treatment Saves:

For the child . . .

Suffering and permanent disability.

For the Territory . . .

Expensive treatment for advanced cases.

He is in the hospital, getting well . . .

What about the ones who couldn't get in?



Produced by the Crippled Children's Division of the Alaska Department of Health in co-operation with the Alaska Crippled Children's Association and the Alaska Tuberculosis Association